Dementia Medication Prescribing Guidelines

(Prescribing Support Document for the Management of Dementia Drugs in Primary Care)

KEY POINTS

- Initial medication(s) for dementia to be initiated by Specialist (RDaSH Memory Clinic)
- Only patients with a good therapeutic response and stable on treatment to be discharged
- Non-stable patients and/or patients prescribed antipsychotic's to be retained by Memory Clinic (GP prescribing in Primary Care as per current Shared Care)
- Patients under other Provider Trusts: on-going "prescribing responsibility" may be accepted by GP if appropriate 'Shared Care Protocol' (SCP) supplied by the Provider

Patient cohort ready to transfer from RDaSH

- Patient diagnosed with Dementia (RDaSH)
- Initiation, titration and stabilisation of Dementia treatment (RDaSH)
- · Patient stable, monitored and reviewed for at least 6 months
- Have a care plan in place and only require annual reviews
- At least six (6) months before next annual review is due

Transfer Process

- Patients transferred to Primary Care (as per Dementia LES)
- RDasH Memory Clinic:
 - Discharge Letter (Appendix 1) to GP
 - Supply at least 28 days of medication (if pt not already under SCP)
- GP practice: carry out medicines reconcillation

- As per local CCG guidance (SCP, Traffic Light System and OptimiseRx)
- Donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine and/or memantine
- Side-effects/Interactions/Dysphagia etc: *Utilise Dementia Drug Card*

Prescribing in Primary care Consider need for medication compliance aids: Discuss with pharmacy e.g. medicines administration record (MAR) charts, Multicompartment Compliance Aids (MCAs)

Medication Review in Primary Care

- Utilise "RCCG Dementia LES 2022" Template (overleaf)
- During Annual Review: "Dementia Medication Review" (overleaf)
- Document using **SNOWMED code**: 938551000000108 (S1 = XabtQ)
- Ensure Pathology/Physical Health Checks (as per LES) have been performed. *Make appropriate changes to medication if required*
- consider Anti-cholinergic Burden (ACB): Ardens template (overleaf)

Deterioration?

- As per NICE guidelines (NG97) do not stop medication based solely on cognitive decline
- Discuss with GP Practice Dementia Lead and/or Admiral Nurse for supportive advice
- If patient only on AChEI? then consider referral back into Memory Clinic for addition of memantine

REFERENCES

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- 1) RCCG Dementia LES
- 2) NICE guideline NG97 (2018) Dementia: assessment, management and support for people living with dementia and their carers
- 3) NICE TA217 (2018) Donepezil, galantamine, rivastigmine and memantine for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease

